

Model A Day

On Sunday, June 7, 1998, Model A collectors from Rockford and the state-line area converged on Sharon, a small town in Walworth county with a population of 1,280 for the second annual Model A Day.

About 180 Model A Fords lined the downtown streets of this century-old village. Some of the rare models included a one-of-a-kind Model A popcorn wagon, built by the Creton Co. of Chicago in 1930; two Model A U.S. Mail trucks; and a Model A pick up truck. The Model A and its forerunner, the Model T, were developed by Henry Ford and were the first automobiles to be mass-produced in America. Model As were introduced in 1902, followed by several other models, including the Model T. Then, in 1932, an entirely different car, but with the same Model A name, emerged.

Townsfolk and participants alike dressed up in period clothing in keeping with the spirit of the event. There were keystone cops, flappers in drop-waist gowns, cloche hats and feather boas, men in suspenders and straw derbies and young newsboys in knickers. Artisans and crafters along the street got into the act, too.

Model A Day wasn't all cars. The festival included a children's play, a film about the life of Henry Ford at the Sharon Historical Society, and plenty of food, music, and auctions.



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Sharon's Model A Day started in 1997 when the Rockford Model A Club was looking for a new location to hold its meet. Several club members proposed looking into Sharon with its beautifully displayed historic buildings. It turned out to be a match made on Main Street. The signage into Sharon states it best "We know you've come a long, long way. We know you'll love our Model A Day."